

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4398

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NESCO

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TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO'S EFFORTS CONCERNING IMPROVE-
MENT OF STATUS OF WOMEN (18 C/PLEN/DR. 4 REV.2 AND
18 C/INF.9)

FOLLOWING TWO HOUR DISCUSSION IN PLENARY NOVEMBER
18, PLEN/DR.4, REV.2 WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY WITH
ONE ABSTENTION (SAUDI ARABIA). AUSTRALIA AND NETHER-
LANDS SUBMITTED MINOR AMENDMENTS (18 C/PLEN/DR.22
AIMED AT TIGHTENING UP TEXT. UNDER LEADERSHIP OF US
DEL TOTAL OF 25 CO-SPONSORS INCLUDING BELGIUM, BRAZIL,
BULGARIA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, DAHOMEY,
ETHIOPIA, LEBANON, PHILIPPINES, USSR, YUGOSLAVIA, JAPAN
AND INDIA.

OVER THREE WEEKS US DEL HELD FIVE INFORMAL WORKING
GROUP SESSIONS INVOLVING SOME 100 DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS
REPRESENTING INTERESTED MEMBER STATES. SECRETARIAT AND
NGO'S IN DRAFTING AND SHAPING FINAL RESOLUTION IN ORDER
TO PREPARE IN ADVANCE FOR SMOOTH ORCHESTRATION OF
RESOLUTION DURING PLENARY SESSION.

US AND COLOMBIAN DELS IN MAJOR ADDRESS LAID FRAME-
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WORK FOR SUBSEQUENT INTERVENTIONS AND SOME 17 SPEAKERS

PARTICIPATED IN DEBATE. CO-SPONSORS PHILIPPINES' POLAND, ETHIOPIA, GDR, AFGHANISTAN, INDIA, LIBERIA AND JAPAN STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF US RES, WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ADDRESSING ITEMS OF CONCERN THEIR COUNTRY (SUCH AS EDUCATION OF FAMILY, RURAL WOMEN, DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF MODERNIZATION ON RURAL AND URBAN WOMEN'S STATUS).

POINTS RAISED BY UK, NETHERLANDS, AND NORWAY EVINCED GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT AND STUDY GIVEN BOTH DRAFT US RES AND ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN OF ACTION (INF.9).

IN SECRETARIAT REPLY, DDG FOBES PAID TRIBUTE TO US AND COLOMBIA FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP ROLES AND AGREED UNESCO SHOULD DO LIKEWISE IN CARRYING OUT SPIRIT OF RES. HE ADMITTED AVAILABILITY OF MODEST FUNDS FOR 1975-76 BIENNIA, ACKNOWLEDGING NEED FOR REGIONAL MEETINGS ON IWY AND EXTENSION OF PILOT PROJECTS FOR RURAL WOMEN. IN ANALYZING SUBSTANCE OF RES. HE CITED TWENTY POINTS, FOUR OF WHICH ARE GENERAL DIRECTIVES--TWO SPECIFICALLY CONCERNING IN-HOUSE CHANGES; FOUR SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND EIGHT DIRECTIVES. HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CALL FOR RATIONAL AND JUST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORDER; AND WITH NEW EXAMINATION OF ROLE MODELS FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN AS PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT. HE AGREED WITH NORWAY DEL THAT IWY MUST FOCUS ON PROBLEMS OF LEAST PRIVILEGED WOMEN, AND WITH ETHIOPIA'S PLEA TO REDUCING HEAVY LOAD PLACED UPON RURAL WOMEN. FOBES CONCLUDED BY PROMISING DG M'BOW WILL MOTIVATE PROGRAM OFFICERS TO SEEK GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN PROJECTS ECHOING MUCH OF PERCY AMENDMENT CONSIDERATIONS.

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